



St Mary's Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 8th March 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - Psalter week 2

Behold, Now is the Day of Salvation

Lent is the time when we particularly want to **purify our souls** to get ourselves ready for the great feast of Easter. And there is no point in delaying. St Paul tells us, "*Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation*" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

When Our Lord sent out the Apostles, apart from giving them authority to cure the sick, raise the dead and to cast out demons, He told them to preach the **Gospel of Repentance**. John the Baptist had preached this too in anticipation of Our Lord's coming. And when Our Lord did come, the first words of His public ministry were, "*Repent, for the Kingdom of God is close at hand*" (Matt 4:17). This means to recognise the fact we all have sin in our lives and we need to turn away from it because it offends God and breaks our relationship with Him. Therefore we all need to make use of the great **Sacrament of Penance** which Our Lord instituted that first Easter Sunday, when He breathed on the Apostles and said, "*Receive the Holy Spirit. Those whose sins you forgive they are forgiven; those whose sins you retain they are retained*" (John 20:23).

The great thing about the Sacrament of Penance is that we can be certain that so long as we have made a good, thorough and humble confession to the best of our ability, all our sins are forgiven. But people sometimes ask, "**Why should I confess my sins to a priest when I can go directly to God?**" There's nothing wrong with confessing your sins privately to God and it is good to do so. But the fact is that is not the way God has established our sins be forgiven. Confessing to a priest means we have to humble ourselves, which is part of the **reparation** we make to God and to the Church as a whole. There is no penance in simply confessing to God in private. The priest can never reveal to anybody what you have told him in Confession, and he too must regularly confess to another priest. So we do know what it's like. And you must be in a **state of grace** to receive Holy Communion – not to be is a terrible thing.

This Lent we won't have a special service of Reconciliation since they are never well attended. Instead, to give people greater opportunity to confess, in addition to the regular times, a priest will be available for **Confessions every Friday evening in Lent after the 6.30pm Stations of the Cross**. This will also enable you to gain easily the **Plenary Indulgence** available to those who make the Stations. The confessional is the most liberating place in the world. No sin is so terrible that God won't forgive it if you ask Him. If it's a long time since your last Confession and you have forgotten what to do, the priest will be only too willing to help you. Also see the purple leaflets at the back of the church. But please don't put it off any longer.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

MASS TIMES AT ST MARY'S

Sat	7 th	5.30-5.55pm	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	8 th	<u>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		11.00am	Parish Mass
		4.00pm	Italian Mass
Mon	9 th	9.15am	St Frances of Rome
Tues	10 th	9.15am	Lenten Feria
Weds	11 th	9.15am	Lenten Feria
		7.00pm	Latin Mass (old rite)
Thurs	12 th	9.15am	Lenten Feria
		7.00pm	<i>Holy Hour for Vocations</i>
Fri	13 th	9.15am	Lenten Feria
		6.00pm	Lenten Feria
		6.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross (followed by Confessions)</i>
Sat	14 th	9.15am	Lenten Feria
		10.00-11.00am	<i>Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions</i>
		5.30-5.55pm	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	15 th	<u>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		11.00am	Parish Mass

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Sat	7 th	7.00pm	Birthday Party for Fr David – Hall
Tues	10 th	5.00-6.00pm	Confirmation Class – Hall
		6.45-7.15pm	Holy Rosary – Church
Weds	11 th	7.30pm	UCM - Library
Sat	14 th	10.00-11.00am	First Holy Communion Class – Hall

NB: Due to government regulations regarding personal data (GDPR), we are only able to publicise the Mass intentions in the printed edition of the newsletter.

CORONAVIRUS: In addition to withdrawing the chalice at Holy Communion and the Sign of Peace, we have now emptied the Holy Water stoops at the entrance to the church as a further precaution. If people wish to take Holy Water home it is still available from the container by the Sacred Heart altar. **It is important to keep good hygiene.** Please wash your hands frequently with soap or gel and don't touch your face unless you've washed your hands. It would be sensible to do this before coming to church. Furthermore, **if you're sick please stay at home.** If you miss Mass intentionally due to sickness you do not need to go to Confession. But let us not panic. We trust in God's Will, but we must also do our part to keep ourselves and each other safe by taking sensible precautions to help prevent the spread of the virus. *Fr Paul*

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS: The next Holy Hour will be this **Thursday 12th March at 7pm.** Please come and join us. *Fr Paul*

VESPERS AND BENEDICTION: on **Sunday 22nd March** at 6pm.

GIFT AID is the simplest way to increase St Mary's income from your collection contributions. In 2019/20 the government will have given us an extra £11,000, based on the basic rate of tax already paid by Gift-Aiders on their contributions to the running and maintenance of the church. At the start of the new financial year we update our records and note that the number of parishioners currently Gift-Aiding their contributions has fallen from 95 to 84. If you are paying UK tax on your income and have not yet joined the diocesan Gift Aid scheme, you could be enrolled for the new financial year. ***It costs you absolutely nothing.*** Blue forms are available at the back of church, to the right of the main door as you exit. With over 1400 households in the 'Parish', there must be at least another five or so who could join the scheme and maximise our annual income. Since November, four of our current Gift-Aiders have voluntarily increased their contributions and we thank them for their continuing support. You can give using an anonymous numbered envelope or by bankers' monthly standing order. There is no commitment to a minimum amount. Please do consider joining the scheme and drop your request in the post box on the wall at the back of church. Thank you. *Geoff Mercer*

MANY HAPPY RETURNS to Fr David whose 70th birthday it is today (Sunday).

THE NEXT KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA quiz will be at 7.30pm on **Saturday 14th March** at Sacred Heart church hall. Price £6 (£3 for students), to include a wine and cheese supper. All proceeds will go towards LRIT, an organisation that trains teachers in Africa, frequently at Church schools. Teams can be formed on the night. If you would like to come, please contact Will Holland on 07811 353 248; this helps with the catering.

PARISHIONER NEEDS HELP with shopping and lifts from time to time. If you can help, please speak to Fr Paul.

EASTER PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE: **8th April 2020.** Please see notice board.

PLEASE PRAY for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Ray Owens, Osyp Szczur, baby John Middleton, John Simpson, Maura Barton, Winifred Howard, baby Ethel Middleton, Hugh Peters, Kathleen McEnery, Lucy Atkins, Mary Steele, Margot Trojan, Christina Rugman, baby O'Brien twins, Gerrard Davidson, Tadeusz Popowicz, Suzanne Burdett, Americo Lallo, Nora Potter and Eva Guarasci.

and for those who have recently died: Ann Dale and June Faulks. **May they rest in peace.**

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

LEADER: Please kneel for our prayer for vocations. Let us ask God to give worthy Priests to His Holy Church and Brothers and Sisters to Religious Orders.

ALL: O God, we earnestly beseech You to bless this diocese with many priests, brothers and sisters, who will gladly spend their entire lives serving Your Church and making You known and loved.

LEADER: Bless our families. Bless our children.

ALL: Choose from our homes those who are needed for Your work.

LEADER: Mary, Queen of the Clergy!

ALL: Pray for us. Pray for our priests and religious. Obtain for us many more. *Amen.*

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL: Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. *Amen.*

FROM THE SAINTS: "In the life of the body a man is sometimes sick, and unless he takes medicine, he will die. Even so in the spiritual life a man is sick on account of sin. For that reason he needs medicine so that he may be restored to health; and this grace is bestowed in the Sacrament of Penance" (*St Thomas Aquinas, 1225-1274*).

IF YOU ARE SICK and unable to receive Holy Communion, you may make a Spiritual Communion which could be something like this: **My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to possess You within my soul. Since I am unable at this moment to receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**

ROSMINI CENTRE: **Thursday 12th March**, 7.30-9 pm - Lenten exploration of prayer, Mrs Janet Kennedy "Praying with Scripture". **Saturday 14th March**, 2.00-4.30pm - Rev Bill Myers, "Firmly I believe and truly" Newman's vindication.

FAITH INTO ACTION: **A day to build social action in the Diocese of Nottingham - Saturday 28th March 2020, Cathedral Hall, Nottingham.** Nottingham Diocese is joining Caritas, the Church's worldwide ministry of charity. Join Bishop Patrick, Caritas Social Action Network, the diocesan Justice & Peace Commission and Catholics from all round our diocese. '**Faith into Action**' is a day to take practical steps to bring the Gospel to life. For details and booking visit dioceseofnottingham.uk/faithintoaction or call 07470 907656.

HOLY WEEK PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM - Friday 3rd to Sunday 12th April: A chance to walk from Keyworth to Walsingham in the company of like-minded Christians and spend the Easter Triduum there. For more information, see the leaflets at the back of church, visit www.studentcross.org.uk or contact Damien at damiennsweeney@gmail.com.

Today's Second Collection: Lent Fast Day for CAFOD

Next Second Collection: Lenten Station Masses – NRC DT – 14th and 15th March

LAST WEEK'S FINANCE	
First Collection: £ 753	
Standing Orders: £ 636 @ 31/01	<i>Thank you</i>